

Dear Fellow Citizens:

Since January 2005, I have had the honor of serving as Judge of the Juvenile Division of the Family Court. The Family Court is responsible for decisions regarding abused and neglected children, termination of parental rights, adoptions, dissolution of marriage, adult abuse, and juvenile delinquency matters.

In 2005, there were more than 9700 hearings set in the Juvenile Division of the Family Court.

Over 480 children entered the foster care system in 2005 alone. Although this continues to be a decrease, the community must rally around this issue in order to solve this crisis that our children in foster care face and the looming negative effect that this will have on our community in years to come. As of December 2005, 1442 children were in the Missouri Children's Division's custody in foster care placement. This is too many and all of us are committed to achieving a permanent home for each child.

We experienced an increase in felony referrals to the Juvenile Division of the Family Court in 2003, 2004 and 2005. This peak has come about after an eight year decrease.

Our Domestic Relations Divisions experienced a continuing heavy volume of cases filed. Of the 9316 cases filed in FY 2005, adult abuse actions made up 43.80% of those cases. There were 4081 adult abuse actions filed. A supervised visitation and safe custody exchange program is in place to provide a safe, neutral environment for children and families.

Everyday, I watch from the bench the dedicated and selfless employees of this Court. They literally save lives. They are an inspiration. There is much to do, but I know everyone is up to the task. Thank you.

Respectfully,

John F. Garvey
Judge
Juvenile Division – Family Court

City of St. Louis Family Court Report to the Community



Contents

Family Court Overview..... 2	Adjunct Services 6-7
Division 30 (Juvenile Division)..... 2	Support Services 7
Juvenile Office..... 2	Division 14 (Adult Abuse & Non-Contested Dissolutions)..... 7-8
Child Protection Department..... 2-3	Division 15 (Dissolutions of Marriage & Motions to Modify)..... 8
Special Services Department..... 3-4	Mission & Vision Statements..... 8
Legal Department 4-5	Contact Infomation..... 9
Detention Center 5-6	Statistics..... Appendix 1-4
Drug Courts..... 6	

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the City of St. Louis Family Court – Juvenile Division to administer justice with compassion, dignity and respect and in a manner that promotes child protection, safe communities, and juvenile competency through holding juveniles accountable, repairing harm to victims, and strengthening families.

Community Partnership

The Court is developing a partnership with the community and has been active in insuring that this vision comes to fruition.

In an effort to build a partnership with the community, information about the programs and services provided by this Court will be disseminated throughout the community. The programs and services provided by the Court are more than many have imagined.

*Family and Juvenile Drug Court
Community Service & Restitution
Victim Offender Mediation (VOM)
Truancy Initiative
City Truancy Court
Psychological Services
ADA & Interpreter Services
Prevention & Assessment
Community Team (PACT)
Neighborhood Accountability
Boards (NAB)
Nightwatch
Visitation-Custody & Mediation
Family Contracted Services
Adoption
Informal Treatment & Diversion
Comprehensive Study Unit
Child Abuse & Neglect Units
Supervision (Probation) Units
Detention Center
Disproportionate Minority Contact
Reduction
Community Liaison
Victim Services
Domestic Violence Advocate*

VISION STATEMENT

It is the vision of the City of St. Louis Family Court - Juvenile Division to provide the public with access to justice in a courteous and timely manner via a justice system characterized by equality, fairness, integrity, independence, accountability, public trust and confidence.

Family Court Overview

The Family Court legislation that was enacted following the 1993 Legislative Session provides for jurisdiction over the following types of Court action:

1) All divorce actions, legal separation, separate maintenance, child custody and modification actions as provided for in Chapter 452, RSMo;

2) Actions for annulment of marriage;

3) Adoption actions and all actions as provided for in Chapter 453, RSMo;

4) Juvenile proceedings, which include delinquency status offenses, child abuse and neglect cases and termination of parental rights actions as provided for in Chapter 211, RSMo;

5) Actions to establish the parent and child relationship, except actions to establish a person as an heir, devisee or trust beneficiary, and all actions provided for in Chapter 210, RSMo;

6) Actions for determination of child support duties for enforcement of support, including actions under the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement of Support Act and actions provided for in Chapter 454, RSMo.

7) Adult abuse and child protection actions and all actions provided for in Chapter 455, RSMo.

8) Change of name actions;

9) Marriage license waiting period waivers under Chapter 451, RSMo.

The legislation requires specific training for Family Court judges. It also provides for a Family Court Services and Justice Fund financed through a thirty dollar filing fee in many Family Court cases.

Family Court - Juvenile Division Division 30

There are 256 employees of the Family Court - Juvenile Division, as well as numerous court departments and adjunct agencies that provide support services to the Family Court.

The Juvenile Division of the Family Court is made up of the Probation, Special Services, Legal, Detention, Administrative and Judicial departments.

JUVENILE OFFICE

The Juvenile Office consists of several department, adjunct and support services. Within the Child Protection and Special Services Departments, the staff of deputy juvenile officers provide direct case management services to the children and families of the City of St. Louis on behalf of the Juvenile Officer.

Referrals to the Juvenile Office are received from:

- 1) Agencies by letter;
- 2) Police Department complaints;
- 3) Referrals from other courts or jurisdictions.

According to the Juvenile Code, cases can be processed formally through the court system before a Judge or informally by the Juvenile Officer.

CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Prevention & Community Assessment Team

The Prevention & Community Assessment Team assists in ensuring, along with the Missouri Division of Family Services, that children and their families are receiving services, support and monitoring that will help prevent future acts of abuse and neglect, thereby reducing the number of children who require out of home placements.

Child Abuse & Neglect Investigative Unit

In cases that require judicial intervention, comprehensive social investigations are conducted by the Division of Family Services. In situations in which the child's safety cannot be

maintained in the home, it is necessary for the child to enter foster care placement in the custody of the Division of Family Services.

The primary responsibility of a deputy juvenile officer in the Child Abuse & Neglect Investigative Unit is preparation of the case for adjudication and disposition. While the obligation for reporting on the status of children in foster care is that of the authorized agency and/or institution, periodic judicial review is required.

Informal Treatment and Diversion Unit

The Informal Treatment and Diversion Unit is responsible for processing minor delinquency offenses and status offense cases, such as curfew, truancy, runaway, incorrigible behavior or beyond parental control cases.

A myriad of services is provided by this unit, such as voluntary court supervision, warning letters to parents, truancy intervention, tutoring, counseling and family therapy, all offered through a group of community agencies under contract with the Court.

Comprehensive Study Units I & II

The Comprehensive Study Units' primary function is to conduct social investigations for felony referrals wherein a warrant is issued, petition filed, and the hearing date is set.

The social investigation process includes obtaining, analyzing and evaluating case data and family history in order to formulate a recommended treatment plan to assist the Court in arriving at a disposition that is in the best interest of the juvenile while providing protection to the community.

Under the Revised Juvenile Code, the certification statute allows for certification of any child between the ages of twelve and seventeen alleged to have committed a felony offense. Certification hearings must be held regardless of the child's age in instances in which the child is alleged to have committed Murder First or Second Degree, Assault First Degree, Forcible Rape or Sodomy, Robbery First Degree, or the sale of drugs.

Certification hearings are also held when a child of any age has committed two or more prior unrelated felonies. Generally, these cases are completed by staff assigned to the Comprehensive Study Unit.

SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Supervision Units

The Supervision Units of the Probation Department provide community-based supervision and treatment services to juveniles and their families once a juvenile is placed under official court supervision due to an adjudication for a delinquency or status offense.

There are two branch offices housing Supervision Section personnel.

Supervision Unit A

Serving Police Districts 1,2,3,4, 5, and 9

located at

2741-A Cherokee, Rear, 63118

Supervision Unit B

Serving Police Districts 6,7, and 8
located at

Prince Hall Family Support Center
4411 North Newstead, 63115

Deputy juvenile officers at Field Units A and B meet regularly with juveniles and work with the child's school and family. Supervision and treatment is structured according to the Missouri Standards for the Administration of Juvenile Justice and the principles of Restorative Justice.

Mediation & Special Court Services

Deputy juvenile officers in the Mediation and Special Court Services Unit provide mediation services to both Divisions 14, 14A and 15. Services are provided by full time Court approved mediators and are provided in dissolution of marriage, motions to modify, and paternity actions in which custody or visitation is said to be at issue. Other services provided are enforcement of visitation, child order of protection investigations, intra-family mediation and supervised visits between parents and their children.

Mediation is the process whereby a neutral mediator (DJO) assists the parties in reaching a mutually acceptable agreement as to issues of child custody and visitation.

The Family Court uses a supervised access and custody exchange center. The program is entitled Heritage House and is operated by Provident Counseling. It has long been acknowledged that there was a need for children whose parents were involved in lengthy litigation to have a safe place to go for continuing contact with both parents. Heritage House allows families to experience some success, and to help families have a no conflict exchange or visit with their children. Parents who see their children regularly pay child support more regularly. Access to Heritage House is only through Court Order.

Friends of Heritage House is a private not-for-profit group. The mission of the organization, formed by a group of attorneys, is to raise awareness and funds to support the Heritage House program.

Victim Offender Mediation

Victim Offender Mediation is a face-to-face meeting, in the presence of a trained mediator, between the victim of a crime and the person who committed that crime. In the meeting, the offender and the victim can talk to each other about what happened, the effects of the crime on their lives, and their feelings about it. They may choose to create a mutually agreeable plan to repair any damages that occurred as a result of the crime. Through this process, crime victims have an opportunity to get answers to their questions about the crime and the person who committed the offense.

Community Service & Restitution

The Special Services Department's Community Service Restitution Program provides an opportunity for juveniles to be accountable for their behavior by providing community service hours at nonprofit community organizations. In this process, the juvenile can also acquire basic employment skills and gain a

heightened sense of self-esteem while learning to respect people and property, as well as to accept personal responsibility for their actions.

The program is operated under the umbrella of PayBack, Inc., the only nonprofit community service restitution program in the St. Louis area. Juveniles perform community service work and are credited minimum wage for the work they perform. The dollars earned are paid to the victim to reimburse them for the damage caused by the juvenile offender. The Missouri Division of Youth Services also provides grant funds for this purpose.

The court has two work crew officers in the restitution community service program. The use of work crew officers allows juveniles who require closer supervision to be placed on a work crew to perform their community service hours rather than an individual job site.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards (NAB)

The Neighborhood Accountability Boards is a program that consists of four to seven members of the community to informally address juvenile delinquency matters. NAB offers offenders the opportunity to repair the harm caused by their offense and make a positive contribution to their own community.

The NAB board, operating in accordance with the guidelines of the Court, meets with the juvenile offender and his/her guardian, as well as the victim (if the victim desires) to discuss the offense, ask questions and obtain information from the juvenile to formulate a plan of action. The plan of action becomes a signed agreement, when agreed upon by all parties involved. Members of NAB are responsible for monitoring compliance with the agreement.

Truancy Initiative

The Truancy Initiative Project is a voluntary diversion program designed to avoid formal prosecution of

truancy cases. The process is started through the Informal Adjustment process, but if attendance does not improve the juvenile will be sanctioned. If the sanctioning interventions fail, other services are offered.

In addition to the Truancy Initiative Project is the City Truancy Court. The City Truancy Court is where parents are held accountable in a Court of law for their children's truancy. For parents who are found guilty of not complying with the City's Truancy Ordinance, fines (\$25.00 per day a child is truant from school) are levied.

Psychological Services

The psychological Services Unit provides services such as psychological evaluation and testing, various forms of treatment (individual and family), crisis management, expert witness testimony in court, and consultation to both court and external-agency staff regarding our clients' diverse and complex psychological issues. Training to court staff on issues such as suicide prevention and child psychopathology, and to community agencies regarding understanding adolescent issues, is performed.

In order to ensure the detained youths' psychological needs and safety issues are addressed in a consistent and timely fashion, staff are available for emergency consultation or crisis intervention anytime.

Family Contracted Services

Family Contracted Services (FCS) is a program of contracted services provided to the clients of the Family Court. The services consist of: Individual, Family and Group Counseling; Grief Counseling; Anger Management-Violence Prevention; Mentoring; Tutoring; Shelter Care; Sex Offender evaluation and treatment; and Reading Readiness Group.

The services are voluntary in informal cases and may be required when a juvenile is under Official Court Supervision.

Grant to Encourage Arrests (G.T.E.A.) and Courts, Advocacy and Police Services (C.A.P.S.)

A federal grant has been awarded to the 22nd Judicial Circuit Family Court to develop and strengthen effective responses to domestic violence against women. The primary goal is to increase advocacy and safety for families. This is a Court-based program, developed in collaboration with Legal Advocates for Abused Women (LAAW) and the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Emphasis is placed on child maltreatment and domestic violence within a household. Services include crisis intervention, safety planning, court advocacy and social services, and legal referrals to families who have been screened and identified as domestic violence victims.

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

In the late 1960s, the United States Supreme Court handed down several decisions which granted greater due process rights to juveniles in juvenile court. In response to the growing legalistic nature of juvenile proceedings, the St. Louis Juvenile Court established the Legal Department in 1970.

The primary purpose of the Legal Department is to formally prosecute abuse/neglect, status offense, delinquency and certification cases on behalf of the Juvenile Officer and in accordance with the Missouri Juvenile Code.

Members of the Legal Department screen all abuse/neglect, status offender and delinquency referrals for legal sufficiency, file the necessary pleadings in appropriate cases, and represent the Juvenile Officer in all formal proceedings brought before the court.

Certain members of the Legal Department also act in an advisory capacity on legal problems encountered by court administration.

To achieve these objectives, the Legal Department employs attorneys, paralegals, investigators, and Intake

Deputy Juvenile Officers, in the Intake, Warrant, Trial and Investigation Units.

The Intake Unit is charged with processing all incoming cases to the Court. Cases are referred to the Court by letters and affidavits, or by the police. The Intake Unit is staffed by deputy juvenile officers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Intake DJOs review police referrals and consult with court attorneys to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that a juvenile committed a delinquency or if a child has been abused or neglected.

The Intake DJO must also inform juveniles of their due process rights and assure that those rights are protected during any police interrogation. In addition to these responsibilities, the Intake DJO must also counsel and interview juveniles, consult with police officers, schedule detention hearings and formally notify parents of them, conduct lineups, record checks and log all referrals.

The Warrant Unit consists of one attorney, the Warrant Officer, and one investigator who, after screening by the Intake Unit, reviews all referrals for prosecutive merit. This task often requires interviewing victims, witnesses, police officers and parents. When there is sufficient evidence to prove that the juvenile committed the delinquency or that the child has been abused or neglected, the Warrant Officer, in consultation with and behalf of the Juvenile Officer, files a formal court petition.

Since the law requires petitions to be filed within 24 hours of a juvenile's detention, the Warrant Officer or a staff attorney reviews referrals on weekends and holidays to assure timely filing of pleadings.

The Trial Unit consists of attorneys who represent the Juvenile Officer in abuse/neglect, termination of parental rights, status offense, delinquency, certification hearings and appellate cases.

At the court hearing, evidence must be presented to prove delinquency charges beyond a reasonable doubt and abuse/neglect cases by clear and convincing evidence. Juveniles charged with delinquency offenses are

represented by a private attorney or a public defender.

Children in abuse/neglect cases are represented by a guardian ad litem, who may be a private attorney, or a Voices for Children (VFC) advocate. Parents in abuse/neglect cases are generally represented by appointed attorneys.

The Termination of Parental Rights and Adoption Section is charged with the proper filing and prosecution of TPR petitions.

The Unit provides investigation and supervision in termination of parental rights and adoption proceedings referred by private and public child placement agencies. This unit does not authorize or facilitate adoptive placements.

Adoptions are filed by the attorney for the family that wants to adopt the child. The unit deputy juvenile officers coordinate all efforts regarding adoption matters with the Circuit Clerk's Office, attorney, the child placement agency, guardian ad litem, and the Court.

The Court can order termination of parental rights if it is in the best interest of the child and there are legal grounds, or a parent may consent to termination of parental rights to free his or her child for adoption.

The Investigation Section is charged with investigating for the attorneys, serving subpoenas on witnesses, ensuring that witnesses appear before the Court and securing documentation (evidence) needed for Court hearings.

Staff attorneys rely heavily upon the investigators to assist in the preparation of cases. Staff attorneys and investigators interview children alleged to be abused or neglected, victims of delinquency offenses, witnesses, police officers and medical professionals to assure that there is sufficient evidence to prove the case at the hearing.

Additionally, investigators assist in case preparation by retrieving evidence that may be introduced at the hearing, such as medical or psychiatric records and birth, death, marriage and divorce records. In some cases when a parent cannot be located, the investigator may be called upon to conduct a search for the missing parent.

The Legal Department also supervises a Victim Advocate position funded by the State Services to Victims Fund. Victim Services provides advocacy services to all victims of juvenile crimes committed against persons. These services include personal and emotional support, assistance navigating through court procedures, and referrals to community services.

DETENTION CENTER

The Detention Center operates 7 days a week 24 hours a day. The center is a secure facility where juveniles are detained by order of the Juvenile Court pending a hearing on delinquency matters. Missouri Supreme Court Rule includes standards for the operation of detention facilities in Missouri.

The purpose of holding a juvenile in detention is merely to safeguard the juvenile or others pending adjudication of the petition filed in the juvenile's interest.

Residents range in age from 10-16 years, and they can be expected to remain for an average stay of 24.6 days. Most common causes for detention are tamperings and probation violations. Males constitute approximately 85% of the Center's population.

The Medical Unit conducts a medical examination by a physician within 24 hours of a child's detention. The Unit provides ongoing basic medical and dental care during the child's stay, and coordinates with the court's Psychological Services Unit and community medical resources on health care issues.

The Detention Center houses Griscom School, which is staffed by the St. Louis City Board of Education. The school provides for temporary, ongoing middle school education in eight classrooms, a library, a computerized reading center, and a gym.

Youth attend various Programs and Activities during their stay in Detention in the areas of positive support, arts, education, health, recreation, special events and Chaplaincy. Programs are designed to provide youth with positive experiences while detained so that their time here is productive and aids in youth's personal development and growth. The Detention

Center enlists the help of over 180 volunteers and educators annually to provide these services to youth.

Staff, the chaplain and volunteers provide daily, evening, weekend and holiday activities throughout the year. In addition to school, detention programs encompass cultural presentations, organized games, arts and crafts, features on animals and environment, personal improvement, health and interpersonal relationships, celebrations, and nondenominational services.

Juveniles receive three appetizing and nutritionally balanced meals each day through the services of a contracted provider. The center is a USDA participant operating under "A" rated standards. The Housekeeping Unit provides for all residents daily personal hygiene, clothing and linen supply needs, as well as basic standards of cleanliness and maintenance of all common areas.

Episcopal City Mission

The Episcopal City Mission's Chaplaincy Program has provided Chaplaincy services for detained youth on a voluntary basis since 1953.

The ministry is designed to assure that the religious and spiritual needs of the youth are met in keeping with the youths' and parents' wishes. The Chaplain is a representative of the religious community with access to ministers, priests, rabbis, or other religious community leaders.

For youth whose lives are troubled by parental, familial, social and psychological conflicts, voluntary pastoral care services include: crisis intervention and counseling, values clarification, identity formation, and spiritual formation through worship and prayer.

Disproportionate Minority Contact & Detention Alternatives

The Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) Reduction Project was developed when the issue of disproportionality was brought to the attention of the Court.

Disproportionate minority con-

finement is defined in the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act as existing when "the proportion of juveniles detained or confined in secure detention facilities, secure correctional facilities, jails, and lockups who are members of minority groups . . . exceeds the proportion such groups represent in the general population." Minority juveniles are more likely than other juveniles to become involved in the system. This overrepresentation is apparent at various decision points in the juvenile justice system (arrest, detention, prosecution, and so forth) and may intensify as juveniles continue through the system.

When looking at disproportionality in the City of St. Louis, African-Americans constituted 67% of the population between the ages of 10 and 16, while the rate of confinement for this same group was 90%. Upon being made aware of the disparity occurring in the City of St. Louis, the Family Court-Juvenile Division began to implement strategies to reduce the overrepresentation of minorities that come before the Family Court – Juvenile Division. In addition, efforts to educate and train the stakeholders as well as the community on the issues related to DMC are underway. Finally, we are consulting with other jurisdictions across the country as to strategies used where there has been a reduction in minority overrepresentation.

It is one of the goals of the Family Court – Juvenile Division to reduce not only the number of minorities confined in secure facilities, but to reduce the number of minorities who come in contact with the Family Court – Juvenile Division.

In determining the appropriate level of detention for a juvenile alleged to have committed an offense, it is the policy of the Family Court - Juvenile Division to select the least restrictive alternatives available that will maintain community safety.

Ways in which the Juvenile Division is attempting to meet its goals of reducing the number of minorities confined in secure facilities is the development of alternatives to secure detention. Since February 2004, electronic monitoring, a.k.a, house arrest, has been a very popular alternative to detention.

The program borrows from other successful electronic monitoring programs and the basic principles of Detention Reform. Juveniles are held accountable for violations by the swift application of a graduated sanction system.

DRUG COURTS

The Juvenile Drug Court is a program of court-supervised drug treatment for nonviolent juvenile offenders with a substance abuse problem. Participation in the Juvenile Drug Court is voluntary. Candidates for Juvenile Drug Court are specially chosen by his/her Deputy Juvenile Officer or defense attorney and approved by the Juvenile Drug Court Team.

The Family Drug Court is a court-supervised drug treatment program for nonviolent adults with a substance abuse problem. Candidates for Family Drug Court have child(ren) in foster care and are under close supervision of the Drug Court Commissioner. The goal is to be able to return the children home. Like the Juvenile Drug Court program, participation in the Family Drug Court program is voluntary.

ADJUNCT SERVICES

The Family Court – Juvenile Division is assisted by many adjunct offices and services from other areas of the court and community.

The Circuit Clerk's Office maintains all of the legal documents for the court. The Clerk maintains a separate office at the Juvenile Division building staffed by ten employees.

The Sheriff's Office is responsible for courtroom security as well as escorting juveniles from the Detention Center to their court hearings.

Public Defenders represent the vast majority of the clientele who appear in court on a delinquent or status offense matters.

Volunteers are also an integral part of the Detention Center in providing programming to juveniles on a daily basis.

Voices for Children (VFC) is an organization whose mission it is to speak on behalf of abused and neglected children in the City of St. Louis.

Voices for Children Guardians ad litem (GALs) change the lives of abused children by helping them move from foster care to safe, permanent homes where they have the chance for a positive future—a chance to reach their full potential. City VFC/GALs are community volunteers who dedicate their minds and hearts to improving life for children in St. Louis.

They investigate and monitor the circumstances of these children's lives, maintaining the child welfare system's focus on the CHILD. As the eyes and ears of the Judge in the community, a City VFC/Guardian provides to the court a full picture of a child's life, and they recommend what they think is best for him or her. It's an awesome responsibility, but one over 275 St. Louisans have taken on, because they care.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Juvenile Division's work is augmented by support services from a number of important areas. The Judicial Support Team provides courtroom support services to assist each judicial officer in the preparation of court orders, the scheduling of court hearings and other courtroom operations.

The Information Systems Department maintains the local area network as well as connections to other areas of the court system. The network includes approximately 162 computers throughout the Juvenile Division. The Family Court is following the guidance of the Missouri Supreme Court in its automation efforts. Information system advances are in compliance with Electronic Courts 2004, the statewide court automation plan.

Support services are also provided by the Business Office, which handles all financial transactions, budget preparation, maintenance of personnel files and recruitment efforts.

The Facilities Management Department maintains court building security as well as the maintenance of the facility.

DIVISION 14 & 14 A (Adult Abuse & Non-contested Dissolutions)

Division 14 receives all cases under Chapter 455, adult abuse and child protection orders. In the 1993 Legislative Session, stalking was added as a reason an individual can request the court to issue an Order of Protection. A request for an Ex Parte Order of Protection is filed in Division 14.

Non-contested dissolutions are also handled by Division 14, as well as a number of paternity cases.

City Order of Protection Assistance

Legal Advocates for Abused Women's (LAAW) City Order of Protection Assistance (COPA) project is designed to educate victims of domestic violence who are attempting to obtain an Order of Protection and end an abusive relationship. The COPA office is staffed by a full time staff Victim Assistant and student interns (when available). The Victims Assistants speak with victims who are filing for an Order of Protection, providing immediate crisis support, legal information on the hearing process, safety planning, and appropriate legal and social service referrals for further assistance.

In addition to COPA, Legal Advocates for Abused Women provides free legal representation for those petitioners who qualify. In cooperation with the St. Louis City Family Court, Legal Advocates for Abused Women's is the first program of its kind in the St. Louis area.

Law School Clinic Partnership

The Family Court entered into a partnership with the Washington University School of Law Civil Justice Clinic and the clinic at St. Louis University Law School. The clinics are appointed to serve as guardian ad litem for children in child order of protection

cases. Law School students working under the authority of Missouri Supreme Court Rule 13 and under the supervision of their professors and clinic administrators prepare cases for court and obtain firsthand trial experience in the process. The clinics are also appointed to serve as guardian ad litem for children in selected adult abuse orders. In selected complex contested dissolution cases, students have been appointed to assist the attorney guardian ad litem in these complex proceedings. Students spend 12-24 hours each week in client related work resulting in extremely thorough case knowledge and documentation.

DIVISION 15 (Dissolutions of Marriage & Motions to Modify)

Division 15 of the Family Court handles dissolutions of marriage, motions to modify dissolutions, paternity matters and child support.

Together, the three domestic relations divisions of the Family Court dispose of over 9,000 cases in FY 2005.

The Family Court requires parents filing for a dissolution or a motion to modify, and who have minor children of the marriage, to attend a parent education course aimed at lessening the devastating effects that dissolutions can have on minor children. The parent education class is called "Parenting Together After Separation (PTAS) and is currently being facilitated by Kids In The Middle.

These sessions are presented by trained counselors who lead regular sessions. Persons involved in a divorce or motion to modify receive a certificate of attendance once completed.

Approximately 1,500 petitioners and respondents attend the class each year. Their attendance is mandated by the Court. Over 90% of the evaluations completed by the participants are very favorable.

City of St. Louis

Family Court

Contact Information

Main Number (Voice).....314-552-2000
(TDD).....314-531-6158
Fax.....314-552-2260

Departments

Judicial Department.....314-552-2025
Juvenile Office.....314-552-2044
Child Protection Department.....314-552-2088
Special Services Department.....314-552-2489
Legal Department.....314-552-2484
Detention Center.....314-552-2193
Facilities Management.....314-622-4721
Information Systems.....314-613-7274

Programs & Services

ADA & Interpreter Services.....314-552-2118
.....Fax.....314-552-2479
Adoptions.....314-552-2129 or 2185
Voices for Children.....314-552-2352
.....Fax.....314-533-2617
Child Abuse & Neglect.....314-552-2111
Community Liaison.....314-552-2161
Community Service & Restitution....314-552-2460
Comprehensive Study.I.....314-552-2127
Comprehensive Study II314-552-2135
Detention Center Activity Coordinator
.....314-552-2293
Disproportionate Minority Confinement Reduction
Project.....314-552-2161

Programs & Services, cont'd

Domestic Violence Advocate.....314-552-2138
Family Contracted Services.....314-552-2395
.....Fax.....314-552-2393
Family and Juvenile Drug Court.....314-552-2000
Girls' Inc.....314-385-8088
Girls Debate Team (Detention).....314-552-2293
Informal Treatment & Diversion.....
.....314-552-2164 or 552-2169
Mediation & Special Court Services314-552-2395
Neighborhood Accountability Boards....314-552-2479
Nightwatch.....314-552-2499
Prevention & Assessment Community Team
(PACT).....314-552-2111
Psychological Services.....314-552-2489
.....Fax.....314-552-2440
Supervision Units.....
" Field Unit A.....314-552-2334
.....Fax.....314-552-2350
" Field Unit B.....314-612-7908
.....Fax.....314-361-2859
Truancy Initiative.....314-552-2533
.....Fax.....314-552-2547
" City Truancy Court.....314-552-2536
Victim Services.....314-552-2257
Victim Offender Mediation (VOM)....314-552-2444
Victim Restitution & Community Service.....
.....314-552-2446
Visitation-Custody & Mediation.....314-552-2395

Figure 1

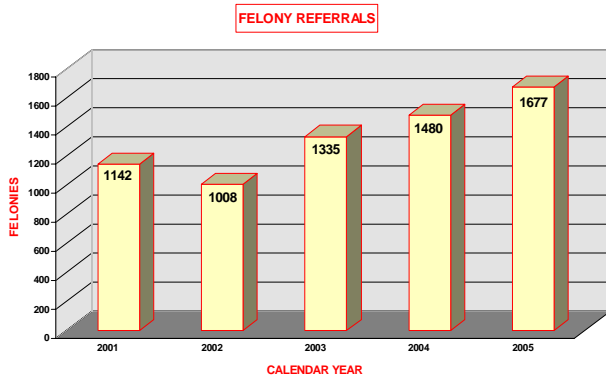


Table 1

Table 1 shows the number of felony referrals to the Court from 2001 thru 2005.

2005	1677
2004	1480
2003	1335
2002	1008
2001	1142

Figure 3

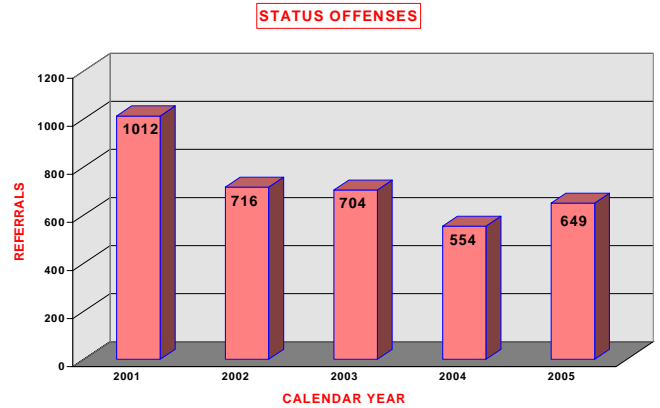


Table 3

Table 3 shows the number of status offense referrals to the Court from 2001 thru 2005.

2005	649
2004	554
2003	704
2002	716
2001	1012

Figure 2

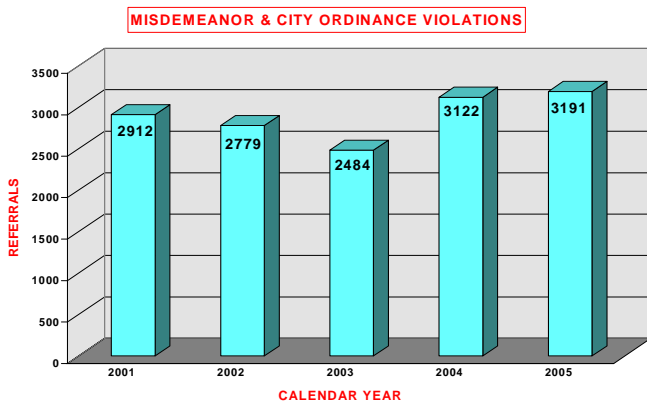


Table 2

Table 2 shows the number of misdemeanor & city ordinance violations to the Court from 2001 thru 2005.

2005	3191
2004	3122
2003	2484
2002	2779
2001	2912

Figure 4

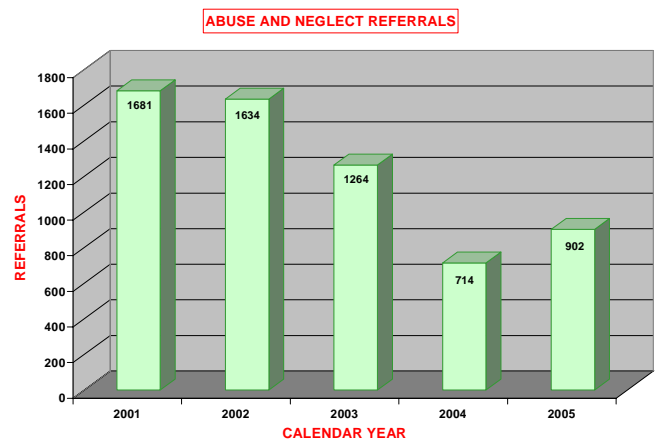


Table 4

Table 4 shows the number of abuse and neglect referrals to the Court from 2001 thru 2005.

2005	902
2004	714
2003	1264
2002	1634
2001	1681

Figure 5

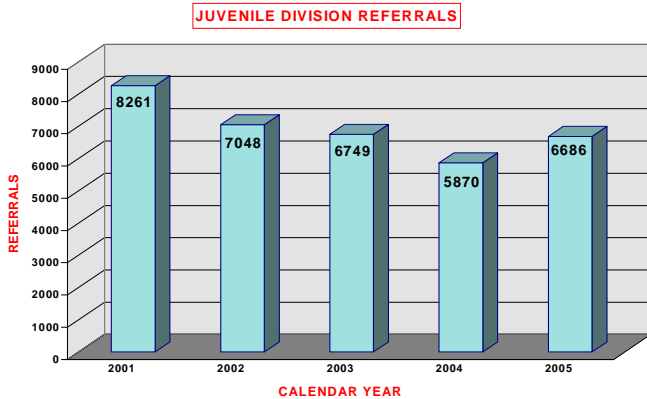


Table 5 shows the total number of referrals to the Juvenile Division from 2001 thru 2005. The referrals include administrative referrals along with the previously referenced referrals.

Table 5

2005	6686
2004	5870
2003	6749
2002	7048
2001	8261

Figure 6

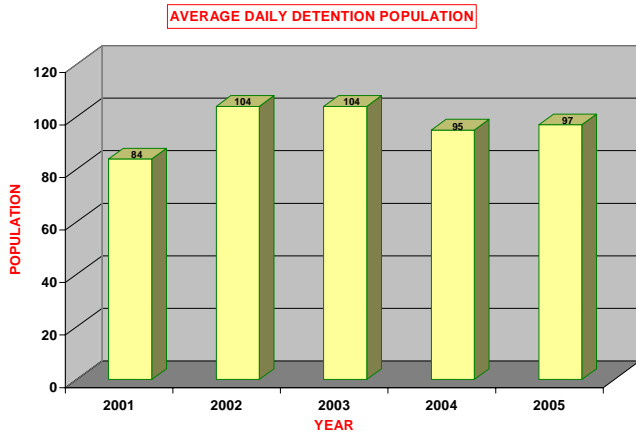


Table 6 shows the average detention population. While there are 142 total beds in detention, the average daily population from 2001 through 2005 was as follows:

Table 6

2005	97
2004	95
2003	104
2002	104
2001	84

Table 7 provides information about the Detention Center population for 2005.

Table 7
Detention Statistics - 2005

Total Juveniles Detained	2472	
Females	364	14.7%
Males	2108	85.3%
Caucasian	99	4%
African-American	2359	95.4%
Other	14	0.6%
New Admissions	251	
Repeat Admissions	1133	
Total Child Care Days	33,507	
Average Age	14.7 yrs	
Average Stay	24.6 days	

Table 8 shows the type of alleged offenses for which juveniles are detained.

Table 8
Reason for Detention in 2005

Felonies	456	33.3%
Misdemeanors	321	23.4%
Probation Violations	565	41.2%
Status Offenses	13	9.6%
*Other	16	1.2%

*Includes juveniles held for Protective Custody, Transfer of Custody, etc.

Figure 7

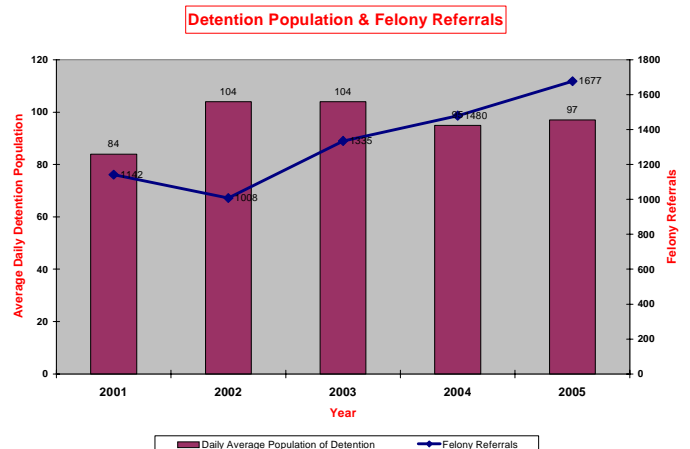


Figure 8

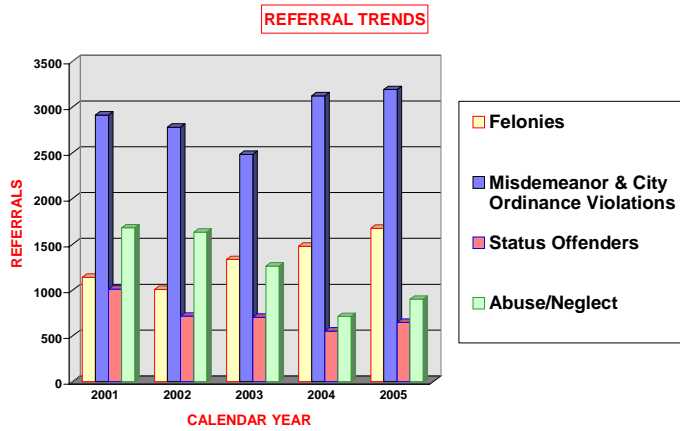


Figure 10

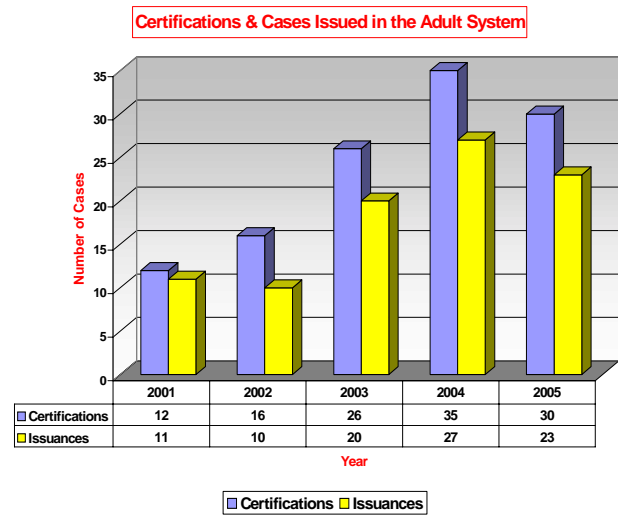


Figure 9

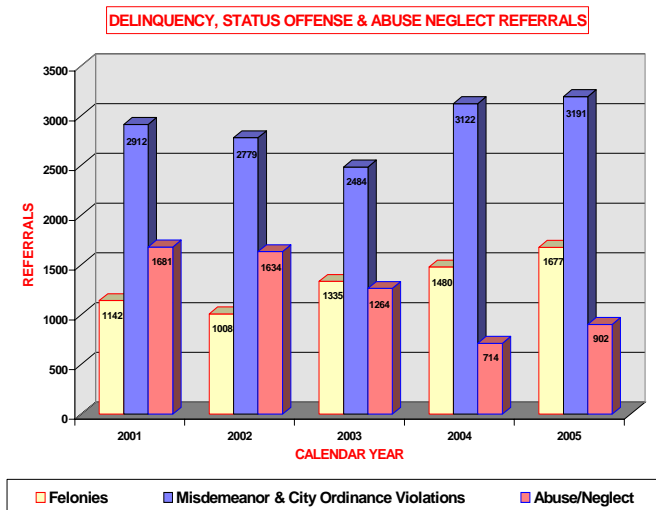
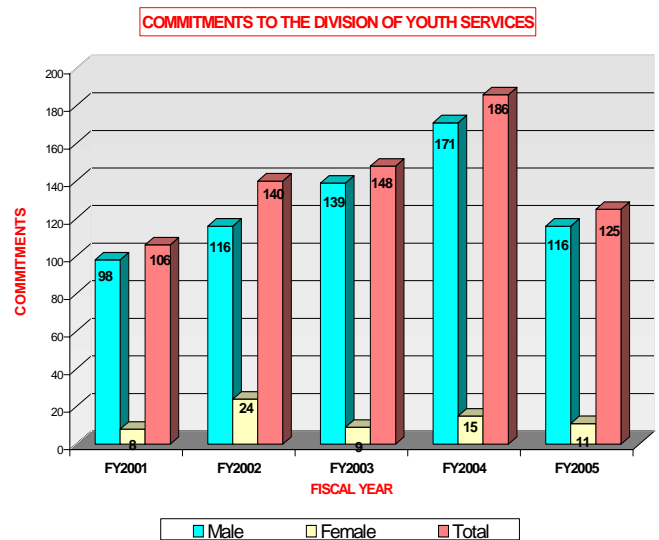


Figure 11



Supervision Units

Table 9 shows the number of supervision cases open at the year's end for the last five years.

Table 9

2005	333
2004	324
2003	389
2002	497
2001	469

Adoptions

Table 12 shows the number of adoptions that were finalized in the last five years.

Table 12

<u>Year</u>	<u>Finalized</u>
2005	179
2004	251
2003	243
2002	305
2001	387

Children Entering Foster Care

Table 10 shows the number of children entering the foster care system in 2005.

Table 10

Children Entering	458
Male	50%
Female	50%
African-American	85.3%
Caucasian	12.5%
Other	2.2%

Family Contracted Services

Table 13 details the number of contracted services provided and the children served during Fiscal Year 2005.

Table 13

# of Services Provided	893	
# of Juveniles Served	585	
African-American	547	93.50%
Caucasian	31	5.29%
Other	7	1.19%
Female	185	31.62%
Male	400	68.38%

The average expenditure per child was \$287.84.

Termination of Parental Rights

Table 11 details the number of cases in which termination of parental rights cases took place in the last five years.

Table 11

<u>Year</u>	<u>#Granted</u>
2005	134
2004	95*
2003	197
2002	210
2001	222

*A new database system was used in 2004 and as a result some of the information is not available.

Community Service & Restitution

Table 14 provides information on the youths and job sites in the Restitution Program for fiscal year 2005.

Table 14

Community Service Job Sites	97
Youths Referred to Program	249
Community Service Hours	3315
Service Hours Provided	13841
*Total Restitution to Victims	\$89,252

*Includes self-paid restitution of nearly \$18,000.

Family Court Administration

Division 30 (Juvenile Division)

John F. Garvey
Judge

Robin Ransom-Vannoy
Commissioner

Timothy J. Finnegan
Commissioner

James E. Sullivan
Drug Court Commissioner

Kathryn Herman
Juvenile Officer/
Assistant Court Administrator

Jean Tyler-Fortenberry
Chief Deputy Juvenile Officer
Child Protection Department

Joseph Scalise, Manager
Special Services Department

Susan Guerra, Manager
Legal Department

Allen Irving, Superintendent
Detention Center

Division 14 (Adult Abuse & Non-contested Dissolutions)

Michael F. Stelzer
Associate Judge

Division 14A

Anne-Marie Clarke
Commissioner

Division 15 (Dissolutions of Marriage & Motions to Modify)

Thomas J. Frawley
Administrative Judge
Family Court